GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:530
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
SOIL TESTING LABORATORIES
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the number of soil testing laboratories are too meager to cover the entire length and breadth of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to introduce a system of issuing soil health card for each farmer to enable them to know about the nutrients/deficiency in their soil; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)
(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.530 TO BE ANSWERED ON TH 3rd MAY, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.
(a) to (c) There are 514 soil testing laboratories with an analyzing capacity of 6.4 million soil samples annually in the country.

In view of the usefulness of soil testing in determining fertility status of the soils, this programme is being strengthened by the Union Ministry of Agriculture under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers. A total of 287 soil testing laboratories have been strengthened in different States and sixteen new laboratories approved under the scheme since 1991-92. For this purpose, funds amounting to Rs.15.10 crores have been released to different States.

Soil testing is basically a State plan activity. The State Governments and also the Fertilizer Industry, are, therefore, periodically advised to strengthen this programme by setting up more soil testing laboratories for providing this facility to more and more farmers.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture has devised a format of Soil Health Card which has been circulated among the State Governments with the advice that it may be adopted with appropriate modification, if considered necessary, for issuing to the farmers.